Taking into account the rate of interest charged by RBI on the General Line of Credit to NABARD and other relevant factors, the refinance rate has been reduced by 0.50% bringing the highest dependence level slab of refinance to State Co-operative Banks/District Central Co-operative Banks on SAO to 7.5% per annum.

Adulteration of opium

4322. SHRI C.RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are adulterating the opium they have to give to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of fraud detected during last one year; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Some cases of adulteration of opium by the opium poppy cultivators have come to notice.

(b) The tests conducted have detected the presence of adulterants like gum, starch, HIM (High Inorganic Matter), Horlicks, milk powder, bournvita, sugar in the opium tenderd by licensed cultivators.

(c) Depending on the extent of adulteration, fine has been imposed on the cultivators whose opium has been found to be adulterated. The quantity of opium tendered by the licensed cultivators is reduced to the extent of fine imposed. The quantity so reduced is taken into account for computation of average yield for the purposes of renewal of the licence of the cultivators for the next crop year. Cultivators whose average yield fell below the Minimum Qualifying Yield have been delicensed.

Post of DG in NCB

4323. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the service from which the post of Director-General of the Narcotics Control Bureau was filled up this year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the officers of the Indian Customs and Central